Local: Could traffic get any worse? > Page 7

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FEBRUARY 19, 2004

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Fighting Fires: Police issue new sketch of serial arsonist | 7

Enron Charges: Ex-CEO Skilling expected to surrender | 8



SLASHED: The Washington Capitals trade star forward Peter Bondra to the Ottawa Senators in a bid to save money. Sports | Page 18

ENTERTAINMENT



>> 9-17

and more.

Weather > Mostly Sunny



IRAN | RUNAWAY TRAIN



RESCUE EFFORT: Firefighters carry a victim away from the burning debris of a train explosion in Neyshabur, Iran, on Wednesday. The runaway train carrying fuel and chemicals derailed and exploded, killing more than 200 people. • Devastated: Several local officials were killed | Page 5

Yahoo!, Google Rev Their Engines

SAN FRANCISCO | Google Inc. and Yahoo! Inc. are souping up their online search engines as the once-friendly business partners prepare for what promises to be a fierce rivalry.

Google on Tuesday unveiled an even more powerful version of its already dominant search engine, adding 1 billion pages to its Web index and increasing its breadth by about one-third. Google's search engine now spans 4.28 billion Web pages, up from 3.3 billion pages earlier this week.

Yahoo, meanwhile, announced Wednesday that it's ready to run its search engine without Google's help. Yahoo has been licensing results from Google's search engine since June 2000, helping to establish Google as king of the online search.

Although Yahoo isn't disclosing how many Web pages will be indexed by its new search engine, it expects it to be far more comprehensive than it was while it was being fed by Google. MICHAEL LIEDTKE (AP)

A Rapid Rise, Fall For Dean

Plans to use Internet-based network to 'transform' party

BURLINGTON, VT. | Faster than you can say dotcom bust, Howard Dean's quest for the presidency ended Wednesday as the Democrat, winless in 17 contests, bowed to political reality and abandoned his bid.

Once the little-known former governor of a small Northeast state, Dean took a summer ride to presidential campaign heights, attracting scores of followers and a Democratic record \$41 million in campaign dollars largely through the Internet.

Exactly one month ago, Dean was the

candidate to beat front-runner in national polls and poised to begin his primary romp with a win in the Iowa caucuses. It all crashed when the real votes were counted.



Dean

A day after his distant third-place finish in

Wisconsin, after a string of primary losses, Dean announced that he would no longer actively pursue the presidency, but "we will, however, continue to build a new organization using our enormous grass-roots network to continue the effort to transform the Democratic Party and to change our country."

Historians will have the final say, but Dean was the candidate who rose from obscurity to a main draw on the Meetup.com Web site, newsmagazine cover boy and unrivaled grassroots organizer. It never paid off in Iowa, and all that was remembered was a high-octane concession speech that will live on long after Dean's candidacy. Ross SNEYD (AP)

◆ It takes two: Kerry, Edwards square off | Page 3

SPORTS | Crving Foul About 30 fans in Madrid, Spain, plan to sue a referee for awarding a last-minute penalty against their team in a Spanish league match. The fans hold Pedro Tristante Oliva and the Spanish soccer federation responsible for the



"penalty mistake" in which Real Madrid was awarded a penalty kick against Valencia. They are asking for one euro per person in damages, or \$1.29 each, lawyer Andres Sanchis said in the sports daily As on Wednesday. (AP) EyeOpeners | Page 2

EyeOpeners

CRIME Left Dangling

Attala Abboushi couldn't believe his eyes when he opened his store in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sunday and saw legs dangling from the kitchen ceiling. Police say a would-be burglar got stuck for five hours after trying to bypass the small grocery's alarm system by climbing in through a vent system. Abboushi called police and firefighters, who cut the vent apart to free the man. He was treated for cuts and bruises, then later taken to the city jail. (AP)

POLITICS 'Veggieville' Chopped

A truckload of veggie burgers wasn't enough to get a small Oklahoma town to change its name to Veggieville. Members of Slaughterville's town council heard from members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals before voting against the suggestion Tuesday. PETA officials say the town's name conjures up images of violence against animals. PETA had promised \$20,000 in veggie burgers to the local school district if it agreed to a name change. (AP)

JOONIAP CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Eittle Big Man

It looks like he's a little outmatched, but this child is giving it all he's got during an exhibition match Wednesday against Japanese sumo wrestler Tosanoumi, as Kasuago of South Korea, left, looks on. Wrestlers let kids get in on the grappling, but also took each other on in Busan, south of the South Korea capital, Seoul. The Japanese are participating in their first tournament in South Korea since the country escaped Japanese colonial rule in 1945. (EXPRESS)

CHARITY The Kindest Cut

Vivian Tamez knew she was donating her hair for a good cause, but it was still a bit of a shock when that first snip took off some 12 inches Tuesday. Tamez, a high school Spanish and French teacher in McAllen, Texas, was one of several colleagues and students to donate their hair to Locks of Love, an organization that donates hair to make wigs for children battling cancer and other diseases. The drive was sponsored



by the McAllen High School student government, The Monitor newspaper reported. (EXPRESS)

animal watch **Hanging by a Bovine**

A New Zealand farmer escaped from a flooded river by hanging on to one of her cows as it struggled through the raging waters, local newspapers reported. Kim Riley was swept off her feet by the current as she tried to turn a group of cows away from the rising river at her farm in Woodville, 80 miles north of Wellington, but grabbed onto the cow, which dragged her to safety. She said the animal that saved her, Cow 569, would get a bit of extra attention from now on. "She's an old cow, an ugly old tart, but I'll have to say 'thank you' to her," Riley told local newspapers. (AP)





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American Airlines'



Nation

In Brief

FORT LEWIS, WASH.

U.S. Soldier Charged in Al Qaeda Probe, Army Says

A National Guardsman accused of attempting to pass military intelligence to the al Qaeda terrorist network has been formally charged, an Army spokesman said Wednesday. Spc. Ryan G. Anderson was charged Feb. 12 with two counts of attempting to supply intelligence to the enemy, but the Army did not immediately release that information, Lt. Col. Stephen Barger said. (AP)

PLEASANT PLAIN, OHIO

Hundreds Evacuated After Ammonia Leak at Factory

Someone trying to steal anhydrous ammonia from a fertilizer plant early Wednesday released a stinging cloud of the chemical, which also is used to make the illegal drug methamphetamine, fire officials said. No injuries were reported. About 300 residents were evacuated but most were allowed to return about an hour after a hazardous materials team closed an opened valve. Ammonia vapor can burn skin on contact and cause fatal lung damage. (AP)

DETROIT

Guard Killed as Gunman Ambushes Armored Vehicle

A gunman in a black ski mask ambushed an armored car as its crew loaded cash from a bank ATM Wednesday, killing one guard and critically wounding another. The gunman apparently fled without any money, police said. Officials said the driver of the armored car probably drove off after his co-workers were shot at, as is standard procedure. (AP)

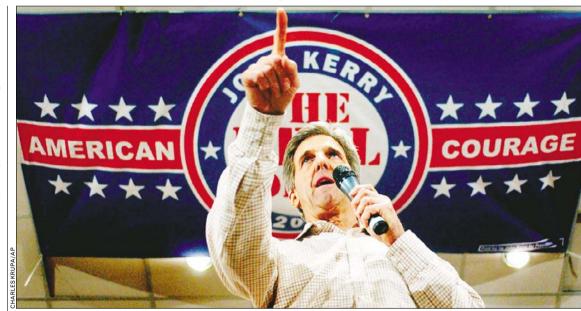
Kerry, Edwards Ready for Face-Off

With Howard Dean's run over, rivals aim for Bush, each other

engaged, Democratic presidential contenders John Kerry and John Edwards unveiled distinctive strategies Wednesday for a 10-state showdown March 2. The challenger will attack Kerry's free-trade policies and special interest ties, targeting Ohio, New York and Georgia with television ads.

The front-runner will battle Edwards on one front and President Bush on another, advertising in general-election battleground states while counting on arcane Democratic Party rules to protect his lead in nomination delegates.

"Every race is going to be contested," Kerry said in Ohio, the focal point of his plans to beat Edwards in March and Bush in November. The rhetoric reflected a get-tough attitude in Kerry's camp, victorious in the Wisconsin primary Tuesday



MAKING HIS POINT: Sen. John Kerry stopped in Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday as he prepared for his next major battle March 2 with his main rival, Sen. John Edwards. Ten states hold primaries or caucuses that day, with a total of 1,151 delegates up for grabs.

but stung by Edwards's closer-thanexpected second-place finish.

Kerry, winner in 15 of 17 contests and still the undisputed front-runner, failed to push his chief rival from the race. The Democratic race makes a pit stop next week in Hawaii, Idaho and Utah — where just 61 delegates are at stake — before turning to March 2 and the motherlode of 1,151 delegates, more than half

the total needed to claim the nomination. RON FOURNIER (AP)

After Dean: Joe Trippi, former campaign manager for Howard Dean, takes questions on Election 2004 | Today at II a.m. at washingtonpost.com/liveonline

HEARSAY | POLITICS

"I think what happens is a lot of people who were deciding at the end, it was the positive message of hope that drives them."

-SEN. JOHN EDWARDS, D-N.C.
TELLING NBC NEWS WHY HE THINKS HE
SCORED A CLOSE SECOND-PLACE FINISH IN
THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN WISCONSIN.

Bush 'Troubled' by Gay Marriages

WASHINGTON | President Bush said Wednesday he was "troubled" by gay weddings in San Francisco and by legal decisions in Massachusetts that could clear the way for samesex marriage. But he declined to say whether he is any closer to backing a constitutional ban on such vows.

"I have consistently stated that I'll support law to protect marriage between a man and a woman. Obviously these events are influencing my decision," Bush said. "I am watching very carefully, but I am troubled by what I've seen," Bush said.

Gay and lesbian couples from Europe and more than 20 states have lined up outside the ornate San Francisco City Hall since city officials decided to begin marrying same-sex couples six days ago.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court recently ruled that it is unconstitutional to bar gay couples from marriage. Under the decision, the nation's first legally sanctioned gay marriages are scheduled to begin in mid-May.



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Nation

Bush Drops Economic Claim

President backs away from report forecasting 2.6 million new jobs

WASHINGTON | President Bush distanced himself Wednesday from White House predictions that the economy will add 2.6 million jobs this year, the second embarrassing economic retreat in a week and new fuel for Democratic criticism.

"Now they're already walking backwards on their own predictions," Democratic presidential front-runner John Kerry said in Ohio, where unemployment has risen from 3.9 percent to 6 percent since Bush took office.

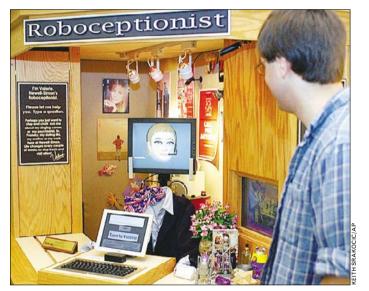
The move on jobs came on the heels of White House economist N. Gregory Mankiw's assertion that "outsourcing" American jobs overseas was good for the U.S. economy in the long run. Bush, House Speaker Dennis Hastert and other Republicans quickly disavowed Mankiw's remarks, and the economist had to apologize for a "lack of clarity."

Jobs are a sensitive political issue for Bush as he fights to keep his own job in a second term. The economy has lost 2.2 million payroll jobs since Bush took office, the worst job-creation record of any president since Herbert Hoover.

The forecast of 2.6 million new iobs was contained in the annual Economic Report of the President, a 412-page volume of charts, graphs and text that predicted a bright economic future.

Bush avoided embracing the 2.6 million number when asked about it Wednesday. "I think the economy is growing," Bush said. "And I think it's going to get stronger." He said he was pleased that 366,000 jobs have been added since August. TERENCE HUNT (AP)

HIRED HELP | DOMO ARIGATO



MANICURED MICROCHIPS: She's a bit cold to the touch, but the newest receptionist at Carnegie Mellon University is warm at heart, "Valerie the Roboceptionist," a creation of the computer science department, debuted on Wednesday. She's programmed with her own personality, allowing her to give directions, talk about the weather or just gossip on the phone.

Teen Finds Himself on Missing Kids Site

LOS ANGELES | Authorities arrested the mother of a 17-year-old boy after her son saw his picture on a missing children's Web site and discovered that she was accused of abducting him from his father 14 years ago.

Giselle-Marie Goudreault, 45, was arrested on a Canadian warrant Tuesday. She was being held without bail until Canadian officials extradite her on child abduction charges.

According to Deputy U.S. Marshal Jimell Griffin, the boy's father had custody of his son, and Goudreault did not return him after a court-ordered visit. The teen, whose identity was not released, was put in a foster home.

The boy spotted his own photo, taken when he was 3, on the Web a few months ago and told a teacher about it, authorities said. The teacher contacted police.

The boy appeared upset by his mother's arrest and tried to comfort her as she was being led away, Griffin said. Linda massarella (AP)

Murder Rate In St. Louis **Plummets**

ST. LOUIS | In a city that averaged 145 killings a year over the past decade, Police Chief Joe Mokwa scribbled "99" on a scrap of paper and gave it to the head of the homicide unit, Harry Hegger. As Mowka recalls it, Hegger gulped.

Neither man really believed keeping slayings in 2003 below 100 was possible. But by year's end, St. Louis had done better than that.

The death toll was 69, matching the city's lowest total since 1962, which was also the last time St. Louis had fewer than 100 murders. How did the city meet the goal set in 2002? Police, prosecutors and others say the chief explanation is that they put the squeeze on the city's most violent neighborhoods.

The city added 100 police officers, stepped up patrols and zeroed in on specific streets and troublemakers.

St. Louis's homicide toll has declined more than 60 percent in the past two years. Last year's total was a 74 percent drop from the all-time high of 267 in 1993, when the city's homicide rate was more than eight times the national one. JIM SUHR (AP)



World

In Brief

SOUTH ASIA

Pakistan, India Set Ambitious Schedule for Peace Talks

Pakistan and India agreed Wednesday on an aggressively rapid plan for peace talks they hope will put a history of acrimony behind them, planning high-level meetings on contentious issues like Kashmir, terrorism and nuclear weapons. The dialogue will culminate with a summit in August between the two nations' foreign ministers — a major breakthrough that would have been unimaginable two years ago, when the atomic adversaries stood on the brink of war. (AP)

ΔSΙΔ

4-Year-Olds Die of Bird Flu

Two 4-year-old boys became the latest victims of the bird flu virus sweeping Asia, bringing the death toll to 22 on Wednesday. They died in Thailand and Vietnam, the countries hit hardest by the avian influenza and the only places where the virus has jumped to humans. (AP)

GERMANY

Man Given 18 Months for Autobahn Speeding Deaths

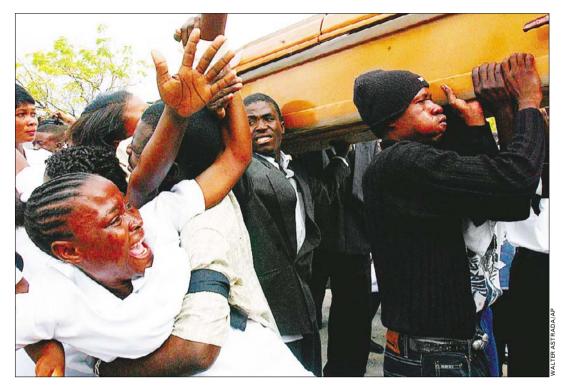
A trial that focused attention on Germans' love of unrestricted highway speed ended Wednesday after a DaimlerChrysler employee was found guilty of manslaughter for high-seed tailgating that caused a mother and her 2-year-old daughter to crash and die. Rolf Fischer, 34, was sentenced to 18 months in prison. While some welcomed the verdict, neither the auto lobby nor the government are advocating autobahn speed limits, a cherished freedom in Germany. (AP)

FRANCE

Intellectuals Decry Budget Cuts in Arts, Sciences

Teachers, lawyers, filmmakers, doctors, philosophers, politicians and researchers are lashing out against what they call the conservative government's "war on intelligentsia." More than 15,000 people signed an appeal published Wednesday decrying state cutbacks in the arts and sciences. The French government is trying to trim costs to cut the public deficit, and many in the arts and sciences say the budgetary ax has fallen on their livelihoods in particular. (AP)

HAITI | TEARS FOR THE FALLEN



CIVIL UNREST: A woman cries for Fritzson Archelus, 24, during his funeral in Gonaives on Wednesday. Archelus died in the crossfire on Feb. 7, when police unsuccessfully tried to retake the city from rebels. Defenders of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide vowed Wednesday to take a stand against the rebels, who now control more than a dozen towns.

Suicide Bombers Hit Polish-Run Base in Iraq

Latest blast kills 10 Iraqis, wounds scores of coalition soldiers

HILLAH, IRAQ | Suicide bombers detonated explosives outside a Polishrun base near here Wednesday, killing 10 Iraqis and wounding more than 100 people, more than half of them coalition soldiers.

The casualty toll could have been much higher had guards not opened fire and prevented the bombers from entering the camp.

One truck exploded under the

gunfire and another blew up after hitting a concrete barrier. Suicide attacks have killed 300 people, mostly Iraqis, since January.

The attack was part of a wider effort "to isolate us from the Iraqi people," coalition commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said.

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. troops arrested seven militants believed linked to al Qaeda in Baqouba, north of the capital, the military said. It gave no details on the nationalities of the militants. There was no indication the attacks and the U.S. raid were linked. Sameer yacoub (AP)

Annan, U.S. Agree On Iraqi Elections

WASHINGTON | U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is expected to support the Bush administration and advise against direct elections for an interim government in Iraq, but will delay further recommendations until he consults with

other governments, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

Annan's immediate conclusions will agree that the direct elections proposed by Shiite clerics are not feasible before July 1, said the official on condition of anonymity.

The Bush administration has let it be known it intends to stick to the July 1 deadline for transition to Iraqi self-rule. BARRY SCHWEID (AP)

HEARSAY | LIBERIA

"I did not come with a suitcase full of cash, but the cash is there for us."

-GYUDE BRYANT, INTERIM LEADER
RETURNING WEDNESDAY FROM A U.N. DONORS
CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK WITH PLEDGES
OF \$520 MILLION TO HELP REBUILD LIBERIA
AFTER 14 YEARS OF NEAR-CONSTANT CONFLICT THAT KILLED AN ESTIMATED 250.000.

Iran Rail Explosion Kills 200

Train carrying fuel, chemicals flattens villages in huge blast

NEYSHABUR, IRAN | Runaway train cars carrying a lethal mix of fuel and chemicals derailed, caught fire and exploded hours later Wednesday in northeast Iran, killing more than 200 people, injuring at least 400 and leaving dozens trapped beneath crumbled mud homes.

Most of those reported dead were firefighters and rescue workers who had extinguished the blaze outside Neyshabur, an ancient city of 170,000 people 400 miles east of the capital, Tehran.

The dead also included top city officials — including Neyshabur's governor, mayor and fire chief — who had all gone to the site of the derailment, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The blast was so powerful that windows were shattered six miles away. In an apparent indication of the explosion's force, seismologists recorded a 3.6-magnitude tremor in the area, IRNA reported. (AP)

Hell on earth: State television in Iran showed scenes of tangled metal lit by fierce flames | Today's Post: Section A

Putin Touts New Weapons Amid Slipups

MOSCOW | After two failed missile launches during highly publicized military maneuvers, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans Wednesday to deploy a new generation of strategic weapons.

The new weapons will be "capable of hitting targets continents away at hypersonic speed with high precision," Putin said.

Putin also said Russia, which now has a missile defense system protecting Moscow that was first designed in the 1970s, will continue research on missile defense and may build a new system.

Putin spoke after two embarrassing missile launch failures on Tuesday and Wednesday. (AP)



Putin holds a model of a "Soyuz" booster rocket at a new cosmodrome at Plesetsk in northern Russia on Wednesday.



'Big 3' of Europe Convene in Berlin

Other EU nations wary as Blair, Chirac, Schroeder talk policy

BERLIN | German, French and British leaders agreed Wednesday on broad proposals aimed at making Europe the world's premier economic power.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair unveiled the recommendations at a summit meant to signal unity after last year's rifts over the Iraq war — even as alarmed European partners insisted the big three nations could not hope to steer Europe alone.

The summit at the chancellery in Berlin came at a crucial time for the EU, which is deadlocked in efforts to adopt a constitution and is about to welcome 10 new members, mostly former communist nations of Eastern Europe, on May 1.

Other EU nations that were not invited to the meeting expressed fresh fears that the big three could try to dictate Europe's agenda.

"Nobody in Europe is ready to be a second-class citizen," Italy's European affairs minister, Rocco Buttiglione, told BBC radio. "Europe is made up of 25 countries, not of three." Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio said the big three should be criticized if they aim to impose their will on the rest of Europe.

"We don't want to dominate anyone, least of all Europe," Schroeder told a joint news conference after the talks. John Leicester (AP)

AFGHANISTAN | FUTURE VOTERS



WAITING ON: Men crowd in line at a voter registration center in Kabul on Wednesday. The United Nations said it plans to set up 4,200 stations across the country to register voters for the June presidential election. So far, only 1 million of Afghanistan's 10.5 million eligible voters have registered.

Italy Noodles Over Low-Carb Craze

ROME | America's battle against | pudginess - inspired of late by the low-carb ethics of the Atkins and South Beach diets — has trashed pasta. But its defenders rebelled in Rome this week at a conference promoted as "Pasta Fights Back."

The three-day conference that ended Wednesday included eminent scientists and was sponsored

One speaker called for a swift death to the Atkins Diet. Another recalled Sophia Loren's remark: "Everything you see, I owe to pasta." The conference offered multi-course

by Italian government ministries,

pasta giant Barilla and Parmesan

cheese makers, among others.

lunches featuring pasta specialties from all over Italy. (AP)



Local

2 Fires Added to Arson List

Serial arsonist hits Fairfax, Montgomery counties in February

LANDOVER HILLS. MD. | Authorities released their most detailed information to date Wednesday about the serial arsonist who has targeted the Washington area for nearly a year, after revealing he hit two more suburban counties this month.

Members of the Arson Task Force said apartment fires this month in Fairfax County, Va., and Montgomery County, Md., are considered similar to 34 cases dating back to March. All the pre-



A new sketch of the serial arsonist released Wednesday by the task force.

vious fires had been in the District, Prince George's County, Md., and Alexandria, Va.

Investigators believe the arsonist hit an apartment building on Richmond Highway in Alexandria on Feb. 6. That was followed by a Feb. 14 fire on Blair Road in Silver Spring, Md.

The task force also conclusively linked two more of the fires, bringing that total to 15. The latest additions are an Oct. 8 blaze in Northeast Washington and a Jan. 22 fire in Bladensburg, Md.

Also Wednesday, the task force released a new sketch of the suspect by Lois Gibson, a renowned sketch artist from Houston. It was based on the description of a witness to an attempted arson in Northeast Washington on Sept. 14. MARTY NILAND (AP)

Metro Warns of Delays on Red Line

WASHINGTON | Metrorail riders should plan for double-digit delays across the Red Line during the next two weekends, Metro said this week. Crews will be working near the Judiciary Square station to replace an intersection, or switch, in the tracks.

Both weekends, trains will operate on a single track between Farragut North and Union Station. Within that area, trains will run

every 24 minutes, and on the rest of the line, every 13 minutes.

After 10 p.m. Friday and 9:30 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, all trains will run every 24 minutes. Trains on that line will be using six cars instead of four cars, Metro said. (EXPRESS)

The Lotteries

February 18

DISTRICT

7-6-9 (white) Mid-day Lucky Numbers **Evening Lucky Numbers** 8-9-3 (white) Mid-day DC 4 9-3-5-6 Evening DC 4 1-2-9-6 Quick Cash 7-22-29-24-6-35 Hot Five 21-12-19-15-2

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	8-4-2
Evening Pick 3	7-5-0
Mid-day Pick 4	6-2-5-3
•	
Evening Pick 4	9-0-6-4
Match 5	18-20-24-25-32 Bonus: 3

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-0-5
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	7-3-7
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	0-3-6-3
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	7-7-5-9
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	1-18-24-28-30
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	16-21-24-26-31

MULTI-STATE GAMES

2-8-34-36-52 Mega Millions (Tues.) Mega Ball

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Officials Warn of 'Dire' **Transportation Needs**

WASHINGTON | Area transportation officials warned of overcrowded trains, gridlock stretching beyond the Capital Beltway and crumbling bridges in the coming years unless billions of dollars in government funding is found.

Transport chiefs from the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland gathered at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments office Wednesday to say that there is a "dire and urgent" need for \$13.2 billion over the next six years.

D.C. officials say the city needs

\$3.9 billion — almost half of which would go toward emergency bridge and road repairs.

Maryland officials said they need \$5.3 billion - \$4 billion ofthat would go toward road projects, including the six lane InterCounty Connector, which would link Interstate-270 in Montgomery County to Interstate-95 in Prince George's County.

Virginia transportation officials are asking for \$4 billion, with more than \$2 billion for the Dulles rail extension and other transit projects. CANDACE SMITH (AP)

'Tractor Man' Tells **Court He's Sorry**

WASHINGTON | The tobacco farmer who drove his tractor into a pond on the National Mall and caused commuter gridlock over four rush hours apologized in court Wednesday.

"I do understand that what I did

was wrong, and I want to apologize," said Dwight Ware Watson during a court appearance in U.S. District Court. Watson was to be sentenced during the hearing, but a federal prosecutor sought additional time to file written responses to a brief submitted by Watson's court appointed counsel. Instead, the judge set sentencing for March 3. (AP)



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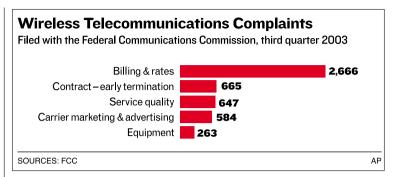
Cingular Facing Quality Gap

Chief of expanding cell phone company pledges better service

ATLANTA | Cingular Wireless, a patchwork of smaller companies, is on the verge of becoming the nation's largest mobile phone provider with its planned purchase of AT&T Wireless. But the company — whose subscriber base would nearly double to 46 million — must fix service problems if it wants to become an industry leader in its own right.

Both companies have lost more subscribers than they've gained under a new federal rule that allows cell phone users to switch carriers without losing their phone number.

In a February survey of cell phone users, Consumer Reports said both companies trailed industry leader



Verizon Communications and rival Nextel Communications on service. Cingular and AT&T have customer turnover rates near 30 percent annually, the magazine found.

Company officials and some analysts contend Cingular has experience melding distinct networks, call

centers and billing systems.

Cingular chief executive Stan Sigman said Wednesday the efficiency and service problems at both companies will be solved.

"The service will get better and I will commit to that," he said in an interview. HARRY R. WEBER (AP)

•

Combining forces: Newsweek columnist Allan Sloan discusses the recent resur gence in corporate mergers | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at II a.m.

Sources: Ex-Enron CEO to Be Charged

Skilling expected to surrender to FBI in energy giant's collapse

HOUSTON | Jeffrey Skilling, the former Enron chief executive who resigned less than four months before the company imploded in scandal, was expected to surrender Thursday to the FBI on charges related to the company's collapse, two sources close to the investigation said Wednesday, on condition of anonymity.

The criminal charges come almost exactly two years after Skilling told Congress he knew nothing about serious problems at the energy trader.

It was not immediately clear

Skilling

what charges Skilling would face, although the sources said they would likely be conspiracy and fraud.

Skilling, 50, would be the highest-profile former Enron executive to date to face criminal charges. His former boss, Enron founder and former chairman Kenneth Lay, has not been charged.

Both have maintained their innocence since Enron went bankrupt in December 2001. Kristen hays (AP)

Market Action

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Rates			Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)						
	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK		TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO			
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00	British Pound	.5297	.5255	.6287			
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00	Canadian Dollar	1.3253	1.3095	1.5163			
3-month	0.92	0.91	European Euro	.7870	.7789	.9354			
2-year	1.68	1.71	Japanese Yen	106.72	105.66	118.89			
10-year	4.05	4.03	Mexican Peso	10.9800	10.9200	10.8165			
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CredSuiss	37.89	41	+4.3
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FleetBost	44.80	20	+2.6
HSBC	81.16	-1.33	+3.0
JPMorgCh	40.48	18	+11.2
LloydTSB	35.46	38	+8.9
UBS AG	77.58	-1.67	+14.1
US Bancrp	27.50	28	-6.3
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Mezzo-soprano and friend to children

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Ridiculously pretty and sweet

mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli is

opera's pin-up girl and guiding

musical light, well versed in the

vivacious arts of Italian art songs

and presentation opera. (Which is

to say, she's not a full-fledged diva, but a singer of beautiful songs.) And so pretty, sigh. Washington Performing Arts Society presents an afternoon with the lovely lady's

The Art of Song:

Cecilia Bartoli

Entertainment



VeekendPa

Long Live the King

At 68 and counting. Solomon Burke is still the heart of soul

MUSIC | We refuse to live in a world where the biggest R&B star counts Michael Jackson as his primary influence. Not when Solomon Burke is alive and able to kick Justin Timberlake's scrawny butt (and Jackson's) with just a soulful whisper.

We're not alone, either. Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Van Morrison, Elvis Costello, Brian Wilson and Nick Lowe have got our backs. They all contributed songs to Burke's recent album, "Don't Give Up On Me." These legends grew up in awe of Burke's pipes. When Burke graces the Birchmere stage Friday,

it'll be clear why. Burke, 68, is in top form, a master showing upstarts

how soul is done. In the early '60s, Burke, Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett sculpted the soul sound using elements of gospel, pop and

country. In America, soul music was generally consigned to black audiences, but across the pond, young Brits went nuts for it. Van

Morrison sang blueeyed soul, and the Rolling Stones covered Burke's "Cry to Me" and "Everybody Needs Somebody to Love." Thus Burke's influence found it's

way into American

living rooms by

way of the British Invasion. Burke himself worked steadily but never enjoyed a Top 20 hit.

His recent recordings for the Fat Possum label are a welcome comeback for "the King of Rock and Soul." Not that he's

> the man has made nearly 30 albums since 1962.

ever slowed down -

But the ascent of hiphop and New Jack Swing sent lots of soul legends scrambling for an update.

ed Johnny Cash's return to form with "American Recordings," so producer Joe Henry created a contemporary space for Burke's rumbling, searing voice. The minimal settings use just rhythm section, guitar and organ, allowing Burke the room to move.

But just as Rick Rubin spearhead-

And move he does. Every nuance of every dramatic performance is captured by Henry's deft production. Burke's preacherly fire, his lover-man croon and his bluesy swagger surpass even the excellence of his famous fans' material. No remixes, no trends, no stunts. Someone buy a ticket for Justin Timberlake. BOB MASSEY

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.,

> come-latelys; you're in the presence of the master.

> > lovely voice. Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sun., Feb. 22, 4 p.m., \$40-\$125; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)

Secret Star: Mary Lou Lord at lota

From Berklee School of Music in Boston to busking in London to infinity and beyond, Mary Lou Lord sings the hits she loves and doesn't much care what you think. Since the mid-'90s, the indie singersongwriter with the funny-bunny looks and mean Martin guitar has done everything not to become an alt-rock pop star. Nice try, babe.

Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Sun., Feb. 22, 8:30 p.m., \$12; 703-522-8340. (Court House)

Continued on page 10



Boy Banding: Verrocchio's bronze statue of David joins his chubby brothers at the National Gallery.

MUSEUMS 10



Hip-Hop Hope: For Spearhead's Michael Franti, the soapbox is his happy place.



Deep-Sea Delights: Blue Point Grill gets fresh with expertly cooked seafood and striking presentation.

DINING | 16

Hot Child in the City

Verrocchio's David is bronzed, restored and back in action

MUSEUMS | A lean adolescent with a sharp blade, a saucy pose and the severed head of a giant at his feet - it could only be David, right after his career-making felling of Goliath, as lusted over by the boy-cultists of the Italian Renaissance.

For anybody who takes the problematic sexualization of the juvie set to be an innovation of the age of Britney, the National Gallery of Art's "Verrocchio's David Restored" exhibit, open through March 21, will be a real eye-opener.

Granted, the level of chickenhawking in this bronze, on loan from the National Museum of the Bargello in Florence, pales in comparison to



The new boy in town is looking good.

that of Donatello's earlier version of the same subject, which leaves the boy who would be king to go about his giant-slaying in nothing but a fancy helmet and leggings.

Still, Verrocchio outfitted his David with a handsomely ornamented form-fitting tunic, complete with gilded nipple rosettes — sort of quattrocento Under Armour with a plunging neckline.

In this show, though, misty Dad-'n'-lad-ery defers to painstaking scholarship, which has restored Goliath's melon to its rightful place: just right of David's right foot, rather than in front of his left.

Ah yes, there's nothing like a young hunk to make a fellow lose his head. GLENN DIXON

National Gallery of Art, Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW: 202-737-4215. (Archives-Navy Memorial)

TopStops

Continued from page 9

Legacy Series: Hank Williams III

We're a little freaked out by so many Hank Williamses in the world, and not always the ones we want. Still, Hank the Third has plenty of his grandad's high lonesome in him as well as a punk-ruled ardor that rocks in any genre.

Black Cat., 1811 14th St. NW; Sat., Feb. 21, 9:30 p.m., \$15; 202-667-7960. (USt.-Cardozo)



You'd think a third-generation star like Hank could at least afford a haircut.

Hey, Big Spender: **Denby's Memoir**

It's not right to laugh at others' misfortune, but it is fun. Understanding that ignoble impulse, New Yorker film critic David Denby wrote "American Sucker," about his financial sojourn into the can't-lose world of dot-com investing. Denby spent like a chump but writes like a champ, so hear his cautionary tale when he reads from the book. Oh, and try to keep a straight face.

Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW; Thu., Feb. 19, 7 p.m., free; 202-364-1919. (Van Ness-UDC)

N.O. Fun: **Early Mardi Gras**

Laissez les bon temps roulez with New Orleans artist Chestee Harrison as he celebrates "L'Esprit de Louisiane" with music, storytelling, visual arts and — all right, already — food.

Corcoran Gallery, 500 17th St. NW; Thu., Feb. 19, 7 p.m., \$20, \$15 members; 202-639-1700. (Farragut West)

Continued on following page



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Weekend Pass

Continued from preceding page

Along Came a Spider: 'The Dancing Granny'

The Mock Turtle Marionettes and three human friends tell the tale of "The Dancing Granny." Granny, see, is a fine dancer when the wind is high, but a spider comes along playing his flute and leads her away from her island garden. This performance is for kids ages 5 and up, because they should learn early on that spiders ruin everything.

Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Fri.-Sun., Feb. 20-22, \$14; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom)

Lights, Camera, Laughs: Guerrilla Comedy

Washington Improv Theater's guerrilla "Neutrino Video Project" involves taking audience members' suggestions and turning them into a film, which W.I.T. then shows with (more or less) pride. Closes Sat., Feb. 21.

D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 10 p.m., \$10; 202-244-8630.

Continued on page 15



HIGHBROW: Grammy-winning violinist Hilary Hahn plays a program of Bach, Bloch and Mozart. Kennedy ter, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., Feb. 2I, Friday in

The Washington Post | Weekend Section

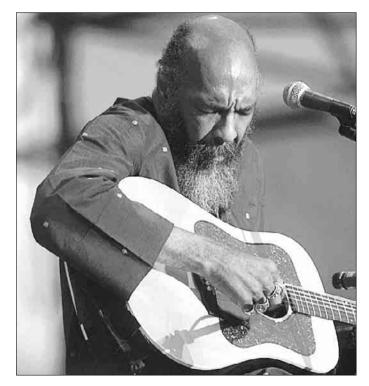


No Boys Allowed:

Strike a pose at a yoga party, doll up for an Oscar bash or get creative over crafts — themed all-girl gatherings can bust the winter blues. | *Cover*

→ Also, a new DJ at Mantis; Mardi Gras parties; choreographer John Neumeier; and Berkeley Springs.

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FROM WHA? TO WOODSTOCK: In his '60s heyday, Richie Havens took folk music from espresso-bar wallpaper to a thoroughly modern mix of rock, traditional and exotic music, and evolution continues today. Wolf Trap, the Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna; Thu., Feb. 19, 8 p.m., \$20; 703-218-6500.

Living with Bipolar Illness or Depression? Interested in Participating in Clinical Research?

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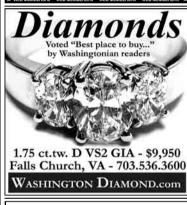
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The National Institute of Mental Health National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services National Institute of Mental Health



Entertainment Weekend Pass

Welcome, Indie Darlings

Fountains of Wavne sprinkle pop joy wherever they go

MUSIC | "Well we've been saving for a custom van/And we've been playing in a cover band/And our baby doesn't understand ..."

Wait a minute, our baby understands everything about Fountains of Wayne, and that's why we're taking her to the 9:30 Club on Sunday

The power-pop bards of the workaday Northeast broke big last year with "Stacy's Mom." Boasting a supersticky chorus and a TRLfavorite video starring the estranged Mrs. Rod Stewart, Rachel Hunter, this tender tale of hot moms and green suburban lawns rode its Cars-v vibe to the upper reaches of numerous end-of-the-year critics' polls.

The hit single is essentially the band's first, unless you count the popular but fake hits songwriter Adam Schlesinger crafted in his sleep for films like "That Thing You Do!" (which snagged



IS YOUR MOM HOME? Power poppers Fountains of Wayne enjoy hitmaker status.

Schlesinger an Oscar nomination) and "Josie and the Pussycats." But it's just a bit on the side for fans of "Welcome Interstate Managers," the third long-player from Fountains leaders Schlesinger and Chris Collingwood.

Balancing novelty and pathos, tracks such as "Hackensack" and "Hey Julie" are closely observed, crafty, yet compassionate vignettes of the deadend lives of rec-room daydreamers and white-collar grunts.

And did we mention that the quartet has matured as a live act? A couple of years ago, Fountains put on reliably shaggy and sloppy performances, but success has tightened them right up, as success tends to do. "Custom van," hell — they'll be ready for a jet soon.

Stencil their initials right on the door, Jersey-style. GLENN DIXON

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sun., Feb. 22, \$15; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)

The Front Page

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LISTENING TO THE FUTURE: Michael Franti of the spirited hip-hop jam-band Spearhead has lightened up his musical approach but not his political stance.

Waging Peace

Spearhead creates music that makes the world a better place

MUSIC | While the term "jam band" conjures up images of musicians noodling through freewheeling jams or earthy folks smacking a Hacky Sack, Spearhead has expanded the genre's borders. The spirited sixpiece hip-hop band co-headlines Saturday's 9:30 Club gig with reggae notable Ziggy Marley.

Led by 6-foot 6-inch rapper Michael Franti, Spearhead gives much love to the tape-trader and tie-dye set, but Franti's resonant baritone and politically charged lyrics make the end product both poignant and a whole lot of fun.

Franti's musical journey began

with industrial noise band The Beatnigs in the mid-'80s and followed with the radical and raucous Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy. The latter dropped only one album but received oodles of critical acclaim and landed concert dates with Public Enemy and U2.

Franti began Spearhead nearly a decade ago with influences of Sly & the Family Stone and Marvin Gaye in tow. Its fourth album, "Everyone Deserves Music," includes heartfelt tunes like the gorgeous title cut and the moving "Bomb the World," where Franti explores his rapidly improving singing voice by asking, "We can bomb the world into pieces/But can we bomb it into peace?" CRAIG SMITH

9:30 Club; 815 V St. NW; Sat., Feb. 21; \$30; 202-393-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

Heisenberg's Theory of Art

OUT & ABOUT | The observer affects the experiment. With this truism, modern quantum physics breaks from the known (or assumed) world wherein a tree falling in the forest definitely makes a sound. So what about art? Does art exist when no one is watching?

Not in the case of "Floor Plan," an installation of live artmaking. In this performance, gallery visitors influence the experiment. As they travel through the rooms above the Warehouse Theater, visitors interact with dancers and iconic objects, as well as sculptures in light, sound and video.

The results cannot be reproduced. The artwork is not for sale. It doesn't look cool over your couch. Rather, the work lasts only as vivid impressions in the mind of its cocreator: you.

Naoko Maeshiba, Sharon Mansur, Ginger Wagg and Jane Jerardi are the local choreographers behind this idea.

A ticket promises not a predictable performance from which the viewer can be detatched, but a volatile experience. And tickets should be reserved in advance, since only small groups may enter at one time. Each "Floor Plan" is unique, which answers another question thus: A tree falling in the forest makes a different sound for everyone.

Warehouse Theater Gallery, 1021 7th St. NW; Sat., Feb. 21, 7 and 9 p.m., and Sun., Feb 22, 4 p.m.; \$12; 202-783-3933. (Mt. Vernon Square-Convention Center)



SEE THE ART, BE THE ART: "Floor Plan" brings the audience into its multimedia art.

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Entertainment Weekend Pass

TopStops

Continued from page 11

All Singing, All Killing: A Cool 'Carmen'

There are operas, and then there is "La Tragedie de Carmen." Jealousy, vengeance, sexy girls, betraval — it's all in there. Only the most stringent adapter of Mallarme's overheated story can dampen the elements of fiery Spanish kitsch, and Peter Brook's one-act version is as quick and neat as a sword slash.

Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney; ends Sun., Feb. 22; \$31-\$36; 301-924-3400.

Giving Thanks: Coyaba Shows 'Gratitude'

Giving is itself a gift. But you knew that, unless you're selfish (va jerk). Covaba Dance Theater, a West African dance and drum group, puts on an exuberant performance celebrating the gift of giving in "Gratitude."



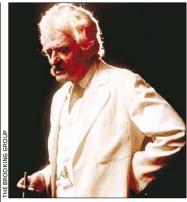
Covaba Dance Theater exuberantly explores the art and soul of movement.

Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; Fri.-Sun., Feb. 20-22, \$18 adults, \$6 children: 202-269-1600. (Brookland)

The Man in the White Suit: Holbrook's 'Mark Twain'

Hal Holbrook created the lead (and only) role in "Mark Twain Tonight!" as a college student. Over time, he has so thoroughly inhabited the American humorist's persona that Holbrook is now more Twainish than Twain was. The grandaddy of all one-man shows enjoys a revival this weekend for its 50th anniversary.

Warner Theater, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Fri.-Sun., Feb. 20-22; \$20-\$49.50; 703-573-7328. (Metro Center)



Hal Holbrook's uncanny portrayal of Mark Twain has evolved over 50 years.





M TENLEYTOWN / AU

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ERFECT SCORE (PG-13) (1:30 4:30)9:40

CINEMA 1 M FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS 202-966-7256

★ NO PASSPORTS ACCEPTED

COLD MOUNTAIN (R) (4:30)8:00

CHRIST (R) - ID REQ'D ★

GIRL WITH PEARL

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ALONG CAME POLLY (PG-13) DIG

21 GRAMS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG

COLD MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REQ'D

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Weekend Pass Dining

LIVE ONLINE

Ask Tom

Washington Post Sunday Magazine columnist **TOM SIETSEMA** talks restaurants Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on washingtonpost.com/liveonline.

The best place for fajitas is ...?

With the caveat that I haven't taste-tested all the many possibilities out there, I'd probably recommend Guaiillo.

1727 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-807-0840. (Court House)

What is the proper way to put soy/ wasabi mix on your sushi? Is it on the rice side or the fish side?

Only the *fish* side of the sushi should be dipped — ever so carefully, with your chopsticks bracing the fish — in the soy sauce. Otherwise, the rice absorbs the liquid and the delicate dance between fish and starch is lost.

What's the best place to go for a really great dessert?

I'm very fond of pastry chef Valerie Hill's simple, old-fashioned desserts — picture devil's food cake or lemon-blueberry layer cake — at Majestic Cafe in Old Town. And both Johnny's Half Shell and Cashion's Eat Place bring meals to sweet endings with the likes of buttermilk pie and coffee-scented custard, respectively. For something more eclectic, I seek out the confections at Zaytinya, maybe roasted dates served over orange shortbread, or a deconstructed baklava.

Majestic, 911 King St., Alexandria; 703-837-9117. (King Street)

Johnny's Half Shell, 2002 P St. NW; 202-296-2021. (Dupont Circle)

Cashion's, 1819 Columbia Road NW; 202-797-1819

Zaytinya, 701 Ninth St. NW; 202-638-0800; (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

What's your fave D.C.-area diner?

Stoney's on L Street. 1307 L St. NW; 202-347-9163.

1307 L St. NW; 202-347-9163 (Metro Center)

66 Bite-Sized

RECENTLY REVIEWED IN THE WASHINGTON POST

BLUE POINT GRILL

(600 Franklin St., Alexandria; 703-739-0404) — This popular neighborhood raw bar-turned-bistro is so nearly a success that it's tempting to forgive its missteps, especially as many of them have to do with seasoning, while the cooking technique, especially those having to do with fish (pepito-crusted salmon, monkfish "osso buco," panseared hallibut, butter-poached scallops) is solid. Even the roast chicken is happily hearty. So stick to the simpler dishes and you'll be happy. For a grin, try the bouncy shrimp mousse-stuffed spring roll, and the greaseless and crisp calamari may restore your faith in the dish. Entrees \$19-\$28. eve zibart

DANTE

(1148 Walker Road., Great Falls; 703-759-3131) — With a generally meaty menu but a light touch that extends to the pappardelle, chef Guiseppe



DELECTABLES FROM THE BLUE POINT GRILL: From left, a lobster salad appetizer in a martini glass, monkfish osso bucco and butter-poached scallops.

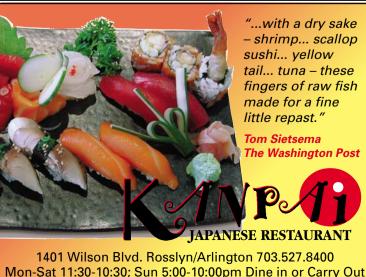
DiBenigno takes full advantage of natural flavors and skips the frills. Darker dishes — rabbit legs, lean and not-toogamey boar chops and spicy duck ragu — show him at his best. The doughs testify to his sense of balance, and it's no small thing to say the scaloppi-

ne is tender (or that the seafoods are carefully monitored); but the finishing touches (trimming, seasoning, siding) sometimes get short shrift, suggesting a shortage of manpower rather than of imagination. Entrees \$21-\$32.

V

Eve Zibart's dining reviews appear every Friday in the Post's Weekend section. This week she samples the fare at Coeur de Lion in Washington's Henley Park Hotel.









To advertise in the **Express Restaurant Directory**, call Mora Segal at 202-334-4130.





Television

Nets Scramble for Stars

Two networks, three celebrities — the war of the fall pilots is on

CASTING COUPS | Three celebrities of varying degrees of recognizability - Jennifer Love Hewitt, Aisha Tyler and Earthquake - have nabbed sitcom pilots.

Hewitt, best known as one of the moody teens on Fox's "Party of Five," will play a rising sports producer who is suddenly thrust into the limelight as an on-camera reporter.

The untitled ABC project is based on a narrative Hewitt herself put together with help from | **UPTOWN GIRL**: Tyler goes corporate.



Gabe Sachs ("Just Shoot Me") and Jeff Judah.

Lanky beauty Tyler, best known as the "Friends" girlfriend who was far too cute for Ross, was swooped up by CBS for a starring role in her own project.

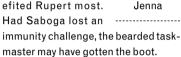
It involves a single Manhattanite who gets an education in corporate life when she's hired away from a hipper workplace — a downtown fashion house — to work for the big boys.

Urban comedian Earthquake is slated to star in an ABC comedy about the life of a hard-luck guy with a wife and four kids; the story is loosely based on the comic's own experience. (EXPRESS)

CONSERVATIVE COMPASSION

survivor (8 p.m., CBS) If the last "Survivor" was infamous for the episode in which Jon's grandmother didn't die, this "All-Star" edition may be remembered for last week's episode

in which Jenna bolted to return to her cancerstricken mother, who, we are told, died eight days later. Jenna's flight probably benefited Rupert most. Had Saboga lost an



JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH

When did they pass a law dictating that Suzanne Pleshette has to appear in every sitcom on television? The feisty former co-star of "The Bob Newhart Show" has

appeared as a regular character on "Good Morning, Miami" and "8 Simple Rules," and now appears as Karen's opinionated mother on tonight's WILL & GRACE (8:30 p.m., NBC).

YOU MEAN THEY'RE CHEATING?

FRONTLINE (9 p.m., PBS) "Tax Me if You Can" looks at corporate tax shelters. IRS commissioner Charles Rossotti estimates that shelters have cost the government \$85 billion in recent years. "You could double everybody's refund if you just collected all the taxes that are due," Rossotti says.

CULT CHOICE

E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (7 p.m., Sci-Fi) A suburban tot (Henry Thomas) befriends a homesick critter from another galaxy in director Steven Spielberg's 1982 blockbuster. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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Sports

Cost-Cutting Caps Trade Bondra

Team's all-time leading scorer headed to Ottawa

HOCKEY | Peter Bondra choked up twice while talking about his trade to the Ottawa Senators. Not even the prospect of playing for a Stanley Cup contender could ease the trauma of a sudden goodbye after 14 years with the Washington Capitals.

"I grew up here. I grew up as a player. I grew up as a person," Bondra said. "I have to understand that I have to move on."

Bondra on Wednesday became the latest victim of the Capitals' salary purge. The franchise's all-time leading scorer is heading north, giving the Senators another offensive threat in their drive toward the Stanley Cup. Ottawa is tied for first place in the Northeast division.

The Capitals received prospect

center Brooks Laich and a 2005 second-round pick in exchange for the five-time All-Star.

The money-losing, last-place Capitals have been trying all season to trim payroll and start rebuilding. Captain Steve Konowalchuk was sent to Colorado in October, and Jaromir Jagr went to the New York Rangers last month.

Other top performers like goaltender Olaf Kolzig, defenseman Sergei Gonchar and center Robert Lang could be traded also, but they have not represented the Capitals over the past decade like Bondra.

"When you say Washington Capitals, the first thing you think is Peter Bondra," Kolzig said.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)



END OF AN ERA: Peter Bondra leaves the Capitals after 14 years as the franchise's leader in nearly every offensive category. He will finish the season in Ottawa.

LIVE ONLINE

Baseball

 $From\ washington post.com/live on line$

Washington Post staff writer DAVID SHEININ was online Wednesday to discuss the Alex Rodriguez trade, the steroid scandal and the Expos' possible relocation to Washington.

I keep hearing how Alex Rodriguez going to New York is good for baseball. I think it would have been better for baseball if he had been stuck in Texas, miserable with his lot in life. That way, maybe future free agents would think long and hard about demanding high-cost, long-term contracts.

There's no question A-Rod came out of this smelling like a rose, when he probably should have been forced to rot in Texas as punishment. But it's also hard to blame him for going to Texas in 2000 when they offered twice as much money as anyone else. Is it good for baseball? It's certainly good for baseball's bottom line — TV ratings, media saturation, attendance figures, buzz.

Do you think Barry Bonds has a chance of breaking Hank Aaron's home run record now that baseball is cracking down on steroid use?

I think Barry Bonds is more concerned about being implicated in the federal steroids probe than he is about breaking Hank Aaron's record. It remains to be seen what effect the steroid crackdown will have on home run production.

Do you see the Orioles making any more moves on the free agent front? Any marginal pitchers out there who might be worth it if the price is right? Trade possibilities?

I see the Orioles trading one of their second basemen — Brian Roberts or Jerry Hairston — to get a starting pitcher near the end of camp, after one of them wins the starting job. And interestingly enough, guess who appears to be in need of a second baseman all of a sudden? Yes, the Yankees.

So we know the Expos are not coming to D.C. next year (or whenever it might be). So if you had to guess, where are they going?

If I had to guess, I'd say MLB holds onto them until 2006, then contracts them.

Lions Try to Corner Market on Bailey

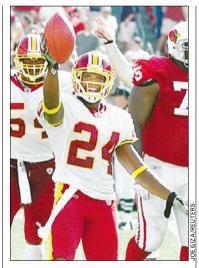
Detroit coach says he wants to discuss trade options with Redskins

FOOTBALL | When Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci attends the NFL combine Thursday, he plans to do more than evaluate rookies.

Mariucci also wants to talk with Washington about acquiring star cornerback Champ Bailey.

Last week, the Redskins gave Bailey permission to pursue a trade after contract negotiations broke down.

"I'm hoping that we can discuss this face-to-face in Indianapolis," Mariucci said Wednesday. "If the



Champ Bailey may be playing for a team other than the Redskins in 2004.

Redskins are willing to talk about it, we're willing to listen."

Bailey's contract expires next month, and talks for a new deal have gone nowhere.

The Redskins offered a nineyear, \$55 million contract with \$14.7 million in bonus money before the start of last season.

If the Redskins don't re-sign Bailey or trade him by Feb. 24, they will probably designate him as a franchise player, which means they would have to tender him a one-year, \$6.8 million offer.

A trade for Bailey, a four-time Pro Bowler, could involve a player or draft picks or a combination of the two. Larry Lage (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUR

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (7 p.m. on ESPN2) A loss to Georgia Tech (18-6, 5-5) could be devastating to the NCAA tournament hopes of Maryland (13-8, 4-6)

PRO HOCKEY (7 p.m. on Comcast) The Washington Capitals host the New Jersey Devils.

PRO BASKETBALL (7:30 p.m. on TNT) MVP candidates Kevin Garnett and Peja Stojakovic square off when the Minnesota Timberwolves host the Sacramento Kings.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL (10:30 p.m. on FoxSportsNet) Pac 10 rivals Arizona and Oregon meet.

GOLF (3 p.m. on USA) Mike Weir is the defending champion of the Nissan Open, which begins Thursday.

In Brief

BASEBALL

Maddux Back With Cubs

Greg Maddux brought his career full circle Wednesday, when he was introduced as the newest member of the Chicago Cubs. On Tuesday night, the former Cy Young winner agreed to terms with the Cubs 11, the team that gave him his start in the majors. He agreed to a \$24 million deal that could go as long as three years to rejoin the club, which

he left 11 years ago to play for the Atlanta Braves. (AP)

EXHIBITION SOCCER

Netherlands Tops U.S., 1-0

Playing with a full-strength team for the first time since last year's World Cup, the United States lost to the Netherlands 1-0 in an exhibition game Wednesday night as Arjen Robben scored in the 56th minute. The United States, preparing to start qualifying for the 2006 World Cup in June, dropped to 0-1-1 this year. (AP)



Netherlands' Marc Van Bommel, right, and American Chris Armas seek the ball.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Knight Drops Indiana Suit

Bob Knight on Wednesday dropped his breach-of-contract lawsuit against Indiana University, almost four years after being fired as its basketball coach. Knight sued Indiana in 2002, saying it failed to follow proper procedures in dismissing him. He said losing the job cost him \$2 million in income. A judge ruled in October that Indiana did not violate Knight's contract. The judge later rejected a motion by Knight to reconsider the case to correct errors. (AP)

Sports

Owner of Red Sox Favors Salary Cap

BASEBALL | Red Sox owner John Henry thinks a salary cap could be good for baseball after watching the rival Yankees trade for Alex Rodriguez — a deal his own franchise could not complete.

Henry, whose team failed to obtain Rodriguez from Texas in December, said in an e-mail response to reporters Wednesday that he is changing his mind on whether the sport needs a salary cap "to deal with a team that has gone so insanely far beyond the resources of all the other teams."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner quickly responded, saying: "We understand that John Henry must be embarrassed, frustrated and disappointed by his failure in this transaction."



Irked by the Alex Rodriguez deal, John Henry said he wants a salary cap.

The Yankees' payroll is about \$184.8 million for 25 signed players after they acquired Rodriguez earlier this week. But the number would come down by about \$4.8 million if third baseman Aaron Boone is released.

Boston is expected to be second at about \$125 million. (AP)

NBA

	· · · ·			-		
ATLANTIC	w	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
New Jersey	31	20	.608	_	10-0	22-10
New York	26	29	.473	7	6-4	19-15
Boston	23	32	.418	10	1-9	14-23
Miami	22	32	.418	10	4-6	15-17
Philadelphia	22	32	.407	10.5	3-7	17-18
Washington	16	35	.314	15	4-6	9-23
Orlando	13	42	.236	20	1-9	11-26
CENTRAL	w	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Indiana	39	15	.722	_	6-4	27-9
Detroit	33	22	.600	6.5	4-6	22-14
New Orleans	29	24	.547	9.5	5-5	21-15
Milwaukee	28	24	.538	10	5-5	22-12
Toronto	25	27	.481	13	5-5	15-16
Cleveland	20	33	.377	18.5	5-5	15-19
Atlanta	18	35	.340	20.5	5-5	11-20
Chicago	16	38	.296	23	3-7	14-17

WESTERN CONFERENCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	LIO	CONF.
Minnesota	38	15	.717	_	7-3	18-11
San Antonio	35	18	.660	3	7-3	17-11
Dallas	33	20	.623	5	6-4	19-13
Memphis	31	22	.585	7	6-4	18-15
Houston	31	22	.585	7	5-5	12-16
Denver	32	23	.582	7	6-4	21-15
Utah	26	28	.481	12.5	4-6	15-19
PACIFIC	w	L	PCT.	GB	LI0	CONF.
PACIFIC Sacramento	W 38	L	PCT 745	GB —		CONF . 22-11
		_				•••••
Sacramento	38	13	.745	_	8-2	22-11
Sacramento L.A. Lakers	38 32	13 19	.745 .627	- 6	8-2 6-4	22-II I6-I5
Sacramento L.A. Lakers Seattle	38 32 25	13 19 27	.745 .627 .481	6 13.5	8-2 6-4 3-7	22-II I6-I5 I6-I5
Sacramento L.A. Lakers Seattle Portland	38 32 25 24	13 19 27 28	.745 .627 .481 .462	6 13.5 14.5	8-2 6-4 3-7 6-4	22-II I6-I5 I6-I5 I2-2I

Standings through Feb. 17.

Action: For a complete wrap-up of Wednesday's games in the NBA and NHL, as well as men's and women's college bas ketball | washingtonpost.com/sports

NHL

FACTEDN 64	ONE	TD	FN	^F			
EASTERN CO	UNI	ER	EN	UE			
SOUTHEAST	W	L	T	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	31	17	7	3	72	164	130
Atlanta	23	30	6	2	54	163	189
Florida	20	25	11	3	54	132	158
Carolina	18	27	11	2	49	112	146
Washington	18	32	7	2	45	130	182
ATLANTIC	w	L	т	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
Philadelphia	31	14	11	5	78	174	137
New Jersey	30	16	11	- 1	72	136	114
N.Y. Islanders	27	21	8	2	64	164	143
N.Y. Rangers	21	27	7	4	53	150	170
Pittsburgh	11	39	5	4	31	119	229
NORTHEAST	W	L	т	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
Ottawa	32	15	8	4	76	196	127
Toronto	32	16	9	3	76	174	15
Boston	29	14	11	6	75	156	138
Montreal	28	24	6	2	64	146	139
Buffalo	27	26	5	1	60	155	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

UIT		ıLı	IUL			
w	L	т	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
33	16	8	2	76	189	139
28	22	7	- 1	64	137	145
27	22	7	2	63	141	155
17	29	8	4	46	121	163
16	30	7	5	44	132	170
w	L	т	OL	PTS.	GF	GA
32	12	10	4	78	177	127
32	18	7	3	74	173	136
30	20	5	3	68	144	129
20	22	16	2	58	132	134
23	26	9	- 1	56	149	152
w		_	OI.	рте	CE	GΔ
	-	-				
28	15	Ш	5	72	148	120
22	16	14	7	65	156	155
27	22	10	0	64	125	132
20	24	8	7	55	130	155
19	22	14	3	55	146	164
	33 28 27 17 16 W 32 32 30 20 23 W 28 22 27 20	33 16 28 22 27 22 17 29 16 30 W L 32 12 32 18 30 20 20 22 23 26 W L	33 16 8 28 22 7 27 22 7 17 29 8 16 30 7 W L T 32 12 10 32 18 7 30 20 5 20 22 16 23 26 9 W L T 28 15 11 22 16 14 27 22 10 20 24 8	W L T OL 33 16 8 2 28 22 7 1 27 22 7 2 17 29 8 4 16 30 7 5 W L T OL 32 12 10 4 32 18 7 3 30 20 5 3 20 22 16 2 23 26 9 1 W L T OL 28 15 11 5 22 16 14 7 27 22 10 0 20 24 8 7	W L T OL PTS. 33 16 8 2 7 1 64 27 22 7 2 63 17 29 8 4 4 66 16 30 7 5 44 W L T OL PTS. 32 12 10 7 3 74 30 20 5 3 68 20 22 16 2 58 23 26 9 1 56 W L T OL PTS. 28 15 11 5 72. 22 16 14 7 65 27 22 10 0 64 20 24 8 7 55	W L T OL PTS. GF 33 16 8 2 76 189 28 22 7 1 64 137 27 22 7 2 63 141 17 29 8 4 46 121 16 30 7 5 44 132 W L T OL PTS. GF 30 20 5 3 68 144 20 22 16 2 58 132 23 26 9 1 56 149 W L T OL PTS. GF 28 15 11 5 72 148 22 16 14 7 65 156 27 22 10 0 64 125 20 24 8 7 55 130

Standings through Feb. 17.
One point awarded to overtime losses

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VEGETARIAN NUTRITION DIRECTOR Needed for a FT position directing nutrition educa-tion, advocacy and clinical research. Send CV and salary requirements to: PCRM, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20016; 202-686-2216 (fax) pcrm@pcrm.org

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Apply in person: 2935 Chain Bridge Rd, Oakton, VA.

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The Washington Animal Rescue League, a full service veterinary hospital servicing low income clients, seeks motivated, energetic, experienced FT veterinary technician. Benefits available & competitive salary based on exp. No after hours emergency. Fax cover letter & resume to 202-726-1648. www.warl.org

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New careers training workshop. Cardiovascular Ultrasound, Home Health Aide, Medical Assistant, Daycare Assistant, Legal Office Assistant, Medical Office Assistant & Human Resources Assistant. Call 301-792-3366 or 202-563-5300

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Any size or condition.
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ALEX/LNDMRK—2BR 2BA, w/d, basic cbl, covered prkng, nr. Metro, \$1400/mo/utl incl. 703-862-1544

ALEX/OLD TOWN—2BR, 2 firs, fpl, d/w, w/d, oak fir, prkng, no pets \$1,600. Alex/Old Town—1BR d/w w/d, a/c, oak fir, no pets. \$975. 703-768-2397

ALEX/Old Twn—2BR, no pets, w/d, d/w. \$1300+ electric. 703-683-4410.

ALEX/Van Dorn Metro—4BR, 1½BA SFH, fncd backyd, recently remodeled. \$1700. www.zip.to/5517 703-658-1543

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A, hdwd throughout, updated kitch, lge fincd yd, gas heat, gas fpl, CAC, deck, scrnd porch, gar. & lawn maint. incl. \$2550. Call Jack 703-861-2913.

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Charming 2BR, fireplace, porch, deck, fenced yard,
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Parking also possible.

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• 10016 Vanderbilt Cir, \$13/5 Please call CASAS 301-983-6771, 301-717-9114, and leave name & no. for appt or 301-424-9030, ext 102 for msg. GEORGETOWN—in Papermill, between river & ca-nal. Sunny 2-Br, Crate & Barrel furniture. Utilities included, 3 mo. min. \$2500/mo. 703-754-7371

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SILVER SPRING—Quiet 3BR, 2.5BA, end TH. deck, w/d, lots of storage! 1.6 mi fr Glenmont Metro. \$1655. Call Ken, 240-432-4707

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Bedrm, pvt bath, w/d, full kit, catv, frpl, deck, prkg,
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VINDICATION

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A former business partner of **STEVEN** SEAGAL was sentenced to a year and a day in prison after admitting he



plotted to have the mob shake down the action-film star. Julius Nasso, a producer of early Seagal films, pleaded guilty

last August in federal court to extortion conspiracy and was sentenced Tuesday. Seagal's spokesman said Tuesday that Seagal "feels vindicated knowing that Mr. Nasso has had to confess to a judge that he is a felon, extortionist and a liar." (AP)



Circuit Bored

After celebrating his Daytona 500 win Sunday night, DALE EARNHARDT JR. climbed back into his car Monday morning and won a rain-

delayed Busch Series race. Then it was off to New York and a totally different circuit to conquer: talk-shows. Tuesday concluded with the "Late Show with David Letterman" on CBS. After parallel parking and doing a doughnut (that's spinning one's car in a tight circle, for you non-driving types) on 53rd

Street, Earnhardt was awarded a scrumptious deli platter by "Late Show" models. (EXPRESS)



Conan O'Brien blows the Official Horn of American-Canadian Solidarity.

APOLOGIA

War With Canada Averted

albino jackass." (AP)

CONAN O'BRIEN apologized Wednes-

day for offending French Canadians during his show's visit to Toronto last week. "People of Quebec, I'm sorry," O'Brien said on his talk show early Wednesday. His remarks were 'translated" into French and subtitled: "People of Quebec, I'm an

HEARSAY | UNCUT

"If I released the tape, I would have released the color version. Why would I release the black-andwhite version?"

CO-STAR OF "THE PARIS HILTON SEX TAPE," ON SELLING THE COMPLETE VERSION ONLINE

LITIGATION

Creepy Lawsuit Concludes

A lawsuit accusing MARILYN MANSON of sexual assault has been dismissed after the two sides reached a settlement, an attorney for the plaintiff said. Security guard Joshua Keasler was working during a July 2001 performance in Detroit when Manson allegedly approached him, wrapped his legs around the guard's neck and gyrated against him while wear-



ing only a leather thong and panty hose. Keasler sued Manson in U.S. District Court in Detroit for sexual

assault and intentional infliction of emotional distress. (AP)

SNUBS

What's in a Name? Lots.

An English town where the late Rolling Stones guitarist BRIAN JONES was born has dropped a plan to name a street after him. Brian Jones Close was to be part of a new, upscale development in Cheltenham. But the housing developer applied for the name to be changed, following objections from residents and potential buyers. Jones, who died in 1969 at age 27, is buried in Cheltenham. (AP)

BATTLES

She's a Model Citizen

Supermodel NAOMI CAMPBELL went to London's House of Lords on Wednesday, hoping to win legal privacy rights for Britain's beleaguered celebrities. Campbell wants to overturn the October 2002 ruling that the Daily Mirror was justified in publishing a picture of her leaving the Narcotics Anonymous meeting because she'd lied previously to the media about her drug use. Her lawyers began arguments Wednesday before a panel of five Law Lords — judges who sit in the upper chamber of Parliament and constitute Britain's highest appeals court. (AP)



Naomi peered from behind the limo door. "Here I am," she hissed. "To win."

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



53°

Partly cloudy

Tonight

36°

Friday

Variably cloudy and 50° / 42°

Saturday Cloudy with rain;

breezy and mild 55° / 40°

Almanac

Temperature

Normal high

Normal low

Average humidity

24 hours ending 4 p.m.

Normal month to date

Precipitation

Month to date

Year to date

Last year to date

Normal year to date

High

Sunday

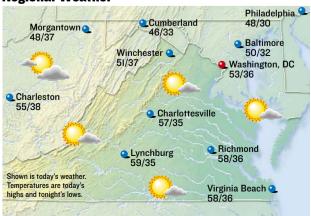
Partly sunny and 53° / 32°

Monday

Mostly sunny

50°/32°

Regional Weather



washingtonpost.com/weather

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny, breezy, milder after-noon. High 53. Wind west to northwest IO-20 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 36.

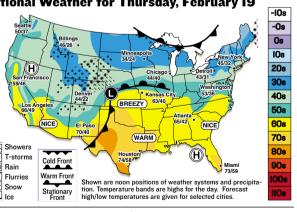
Sun and Moon

Sunrise today Sunset tonight	
Moonrise today Moonset today	. 6:53 a.m.

Feb 20 Feh 27

Mar 6

National Weather for Thursday, February 19



National Cities World Cities Today Hi/Lo/W Fri. Hi/Lo/W Fri. Hi/Lo/W Today Hi/Lo/W City Citv 65/42/s 40/26/pc 64/48/pc 42/30/pc Atlanta Amsterdam 35/28/s 38/33/s **Boston Athens** 52/41/s 56/44/r Chicago 44/40/0 44/28/r 28/2I/pc Berlin 70/5I/pc Dallas 64/37/pc Ruenos Aires 77/57/pc 79/55/s 44/22/r 84/71/s 42/18/c 42/26/pc Denver Calgary 48/36/pc 34/23/c Honolulu 85/70/s Duhlin 44/31/9 64/49/pc Los Angeles 66/49/pc 42/34/pc Geneva Miami 73/59/s 76/64/pc Moscow 6/-9/st 45/32/pc 4I/37/pc New York Cit Rome 70/44/s 76/58/pc Sydney Tokyo Orlando 91/62/9 90/78/9 50/37/pc 52/38/pc Seattle

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. @2004

Playback

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

I UNDERSTAND LETTER-WRITER Nicolette Costantino's frustration over the lack of good soccer reporting in America (Feb. 13). However, I think it is commendable that Express prints any articles about soccer considering how rarely it is reported in news outlets.

Whether it is a blurb about D.C. United's Freddy Adu or a picture of British soccer star David Beckham, Express is supporting the beautiful game by offering the exposure it needs for Americans to accept soccer as a popular sport. Until they do, I will appreciate whatever coverage I can find.

> -BRIAN J. McCARTHY Washington, D.C.

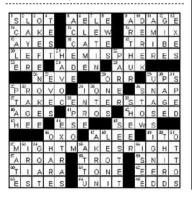
I FIND IT IRONIC that the White House advocates non-religious rule in Iraq ("U.S. Balks at Islamic Iraqi Rule," Feb. 17), while considering support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban gay marriage. Prohibition of samesex marriage is rooted in religious ideology, which is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and contrary to equality. It appears the "separation of church and state" concept is more convenient than the practice.

> -Seth Horstmeyer $Silver\,Spring, Md.$

WRITE TO EXPRESS

Letters must include the writer's name. address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington. VA 22216.

Yesterday's Solution



Crossword Puzzle: Clock Watching | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- Storm preceder
- 5 Lamb or veal items
- 10 Waist band?
- 14 Moises in the
- majors 15 Condor's dias
- 16 Piedmont wine center
- 17 Kind of drum
- 18 Lariat in the
- Southwest
- 19 Fiction enthusiast?
- 20 French, to some
- 23 IV x XIII
- 24 Sean Connery,
- among many 25 Put aside
- "Bragh" preceder
- 33 Radical '70s org.
- 34 Sitting on
- 36 Prepare for
- knighthood
- 37 Mae West's asset?
- 41 Kuwait biggie
- 42 He jumps through hoops
- 43 Apt. aroupina
- 44 S. England county

WHERE ARE

YOU OFF TO

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy

Horoscope | Stella Wilder

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Women may

have to rely on their feminine wiles to see

them through. Men, however, must not be

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A difficult

style. Through quick and imaginative

means you can remedy the situation.

financial situation may be cramping your

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Prosperity is

one thing to you, and something else again

to another. Concentrate on those things

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may be

and answering defensively. Strive to see

things more clearly, and be less abrasive

misinterpreting someone else's intentions

taken in by this temporary ploy.

that work for you alone

- 46 Places of "action" Mia'
- 51 Brew holder
- 52 1979 Doobie Brothers
- history
- 61 Off course
- 64 "Awake and Sing!"
- playwright

NIGHT

- 59 Tommy of Mets'
- 60 It's projected
- 63 Show fury

hit

- 65 Mudville group 66 Is off the mark
 - Action after an alarm 68 Freshly
 - nown

- 1 It'll take you for a ride
- 2 Cry of dismay
- 3 Diet successfully 4 Flexor or extensor

I'M TAKING THREE LANGUAGES

GERMAN, FRONCH AND SPANISH

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - You should

making imaginative use of the time avail-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - You'll have an

more completely. The conclusions you

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - You may

receive news from afar which has you

important opportunity to think things over

come to will affect others besides yourself.

reconsidering your current situation. There

could be something better on the horizon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - You should be

in your life, so you can move forward with

confidence. Try picking up the pace a little.

nowhere near any dangerous junctions

able to you throughout the day.

be able to get ahead of schedule, simply by

- 5 Traveling amusement

- show
- Take, as advice
- 9 Meeting with a
- 10 Greeting an officer
- Kind of contract
- Pocket breads
- medium
- 11 It covers plenty of

S.KHM

THAT?

around

party

(Var.)

Runner'

27 Frat letters

13 Take on

21 Black gold

12 Type of beetle or

22 Russian author of

"The Lower Depths"

25 Replay effect, briefly

26 Rutger ___ of "Blade

28 Prescription data

32 Matador boosters

38 Nick-of-time types

30 Kind of surgeon

31 Lysol targets

35 HS junior test

39 "Wunder-bar!

45 Earth mover

48 Spiny lizard

52 Colt's kin

40 Most subject to

47 Home in the hills

50 Living quarters

53 Operatic prince

54 Kind of miss

55 Part of YSL

56

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - If you're

feeling out of sorts early in the day, the

embrace any opportunity to take part.

is sure to become much smoother.

ioin vou. Compromise is possible

must not be avoided at any time.

best remedy is action. Move forward, and

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - It's time

for you to make what may amount to a diffi-

cult decision - but once it's made, the road

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Someone

you know well may have different plans, and

you'll have trouble persuading him or her to

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Trouble at

the workplace must not be allowed to affect

you at home. Rational discussion, however,

Wee nest

62 Arrow wood

I BOUGHT A NOW

CELL PHONE AND I

WANT TO BE ABLE TO

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS.

57 Half a matched set

58 Shore prospector

33 Food fish

chance

AMANDA BROWNEWELL

Fairer Fare Deals

LIKE MANY OF YOU, I read about Metro's latest proposed fare hikes with a feeling of profound resignation. What else can any of us do but continue to suffer the whims of WMATA?

But lo and behold, in my hour of deepest loathing and discontent, the miser in me sprang free and ideas began to flow like the Potomac.

Listed below, for your reading pleasure and Metro's consideration, are a few of the more "plausible" remedies I came up with.

1. FedEx Field. MCI Center. You see where I'm going, don't you? "Amazon.com Transit System" has a nice ring to it, especially if it means no fare increases.

Heck, Metro could go one step further and offer up individual stations for sponsorship.

Van Dorn Street? Boring. But "Nabisco presents Van Dorn Street"? Now that means business. And with the advertising fees Metro could charge sponsors, there would be no need for fare hikes.

2. When my sorority was low on funds, we held fundraisers. Imagine the impact of a systemwide fundraiser!

Picture a Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser, for example. Have Metro employees stand outside the station selling doughnuts to famished passengers.

I know for a fact that a doughnut can be consumed in less time than it takes to make it to the fare gates, so Metro need not worry about its food prohibition. (Although a few doughnut crumbs might make the trains smell a little better.)

3. Hire Mr. T to be Metro's spokesman, and market new Metro apparel and accessories accordingly. I, for one, would be the first in line for a shirt that reads, "I pity the fool that don't ride Metro!'

I can foresee these items becoming instant cult classics, fetching top prices and solving Metro's budget problems

Amanda Brownewell is a recent graduate of Randolph-Macon College.

Express accepts occassional guest columns for this

ions expressed are solely those of the author

ace. Send to inbox@readexpress.com. The opin-

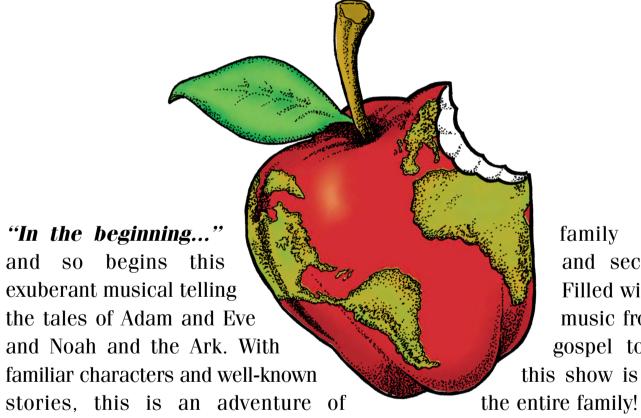
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